

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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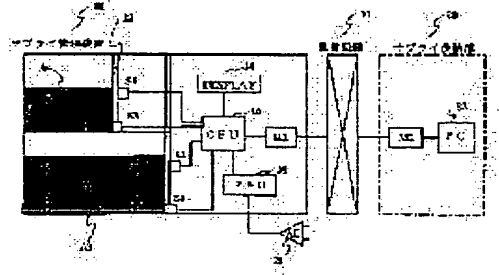
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(54) SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a supply management system which automatically orders a supply and delivers the supply before it runs out irrespective of the presence or absence of the communication function of an image forming device itself or even if a user does not manage the stock of the supply and does not execute an ordering job by managing the supply in a supply management device.

SOLUTION: When the supply reaches a supplement area from a stock state, a supply supplement area detection sensor 1 is turned off and it transmits a supply supplement signal to CPU 16. CPU 16 transmits order data of the supply to a supply part 80 through a communication line 30 when the supply supplement signal from the supply supplement area detection sensor S1, is detected for not less than prescribed detection time which is set by a user. Thus, the supply part accordingly delivers the supply to a user side and transmits delivery data through the communication line.



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Japanese Publication for Unexamined Patent Application

No. 2001/34685 (Tokukaihei 2001-34685)

(A) Relevance to claim

This document has relevance to claims 1 to 29 of the present application.

(B) Translation of the Relevant Passages of the Document

[PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED]

[0004]

The first object of the present invention is to provide a supply management system which realizes the following advantage. A supply management apparatus manages a supply, so that automatic order for the supply and delivery of the supply are realized before the supply runs out, irrespective of the presence or absence of a communication function, or even though a user does not manage the stock of the supply and does not execute an ordering job for the supply.

[0005]

[MEANS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS]

In the invention recited in claim 1, the first object is achieved by the following arrangement. A supply management system includes: a supply management apparatus for storing a supply, which is one of various consumables used in an image forming apparatus, on a

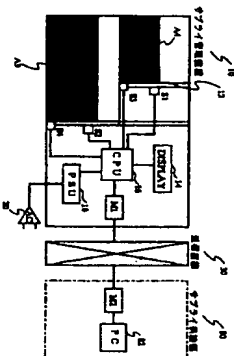
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side of a user; and a supplying section, connected to the supply management apparatus via a communication line, which provides the supply as one of the various consumables, to the user having the image forming apparatus, wherein the supply management apparatus has: detecting means for detecting a storage amount of the supply in the supply management apparatus; and a transmitting means for transmitting order data for the supply from the supply management apparatus via the communication line to the supplying section when the detecting means detects that the storage amount of the supply in the supply management apparatus becomes less than a predetermined amount, and the supplying section has: receiving means for receiving the order data for the supply which has been transmitted from the transmitting section; delivery means for delivering the supply from the supplying section to the side of the user in accordance with the order data when the receiving means receives the order data; and delivery date transmitting means for transmitting delivery date data delivered from the delivery means via the communication line.

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【0002】
従来の技術 複写機、フロッピーリ、プリンタなどでは、図表形成装置では、消耗品である用紙、トナーなどの消費量を不足となる前に迅速に補充しないと、装置が停止してしまふ。OA化された近頃のオフィスでは、これらに多量に形成装置が一時的に使用不能となるようなイベントに多量に発生する事も、例へば、特開平11-3005号の迅速に補充するた、例へば、特開平11-3005号の公報記載の発明では、通信機能を得た複写機により、

【課題を解決するための手段】請求項1記載の発明では、画像形成装置で用いる各種消耗品であるサフラインをユーザー側で保管しておくサフライン管理装置と、このサフライン管理装置と通信回線を介して接続し、画像形成装置を保有しているユーザーに各種消耗品であるサフラインを供給するサフライン供給部とからなるサフライン管理システムを構成する。



(5)

フォーマット(参考)

2C061 AP01 BB10 BB11 CC34 HJ10
HX06 HK07 HK11 HW13 HW14
HW26 LL02
2H027 DC18 DC19 D002 EJ13 EJ16
GB03 GB10 HB01 HB18 ZA07
3F022 CC02 MM08 MM30 PP01 PP04
Q007 Q013
5R021 AA01 AA02 BB10 CC05 EE01
KK07
5B049 AA06 BB12 BB33 CC05 CC27
CC31 CC36 FF02 FF03 FF04
GG04 GG07
SK101 KK01 KK17
9AA001 JJ52 JJ53

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